

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, the first national "Co-op Month" was celebrated in 1964 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and has since been celebrated every October in the United States; and

WHEREAS, cooperatives are businesses that are locally owned by everyday people who join together to solve a problem, meet a need or achieve shared goals; and

WHEREAS, cooperative enterprises – including food co-ops, worker co-ops, credit unions, farmer co-ops, artisan co-ops, utilities co-ops, and housing co-ops – are owned and democratically controlled by their member-owners and give people who belong to cooperatives a real stake in their communities and their economic futures; and

WHEREAS, cooperatives are recognized in the statutes of Vermont, including Title 11, Chapter 7: Cooperatives, Chapter 9: Worker Cooperative Corporations, and Chapter 14: Cooperative Housing Ownership Act, providing the basic framework for the formation and operation of cooperatives as member-owned and governed enterprises, operating on a not-for-profit basis for the benefit of their membership; and

WHEREAS, today, an estimated 35,000 member-owners in Vermont depend on approximately 130 cooperatives to meet a wide variety of needs, goals, and aspirations; and

WHEREAS, cooperatives play a major role in the economy of the state of Vermont, annually recording an estimated \$1 billion in revenue; and

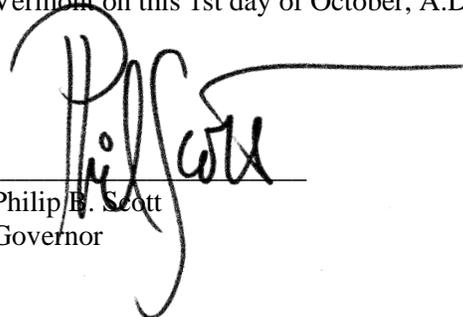
WHEREAS, the cooperative philosophy of working together for the common good has promoted community well-being and improved the quality of life for Vermonters.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim October 2019 as

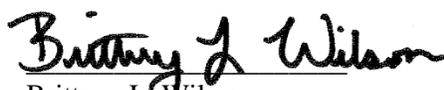
CO-OP MONTH

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 1st day of October, A.D. 2019.


Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs